

VZCZCXRO4859  
OO RUEHFL RUEHNP  
DE RUEHRO #1329/01 1250430  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 050430Z MAY 06  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4643  
INFO RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 1500  
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY 7026  
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY 1434  
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY 1360  
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 001329

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

BRUSSELS FOR FAA REP KURT EDWARDS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [FAIR](#) [IT](#)  
SUBJECT: MIMA/EUROFLY, FLIGHTS WILL LIKELY GO FORWARD  
UNLESS USG TAKES ACTION

REF: A. STATE 69276

- [1](#)B. REDDY-BYERLY E-MAILS
- [1](#)C. ROME 1303
- [1](#)D. STATE 55307

This cable is Sensitive but Unclassified. Please do not share this outside the United States Government. Not for Internet publication.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: Italy's aviation authority appears to be acquiescing to the MiMa/Eurofly flights. ENAC's Vice Director General, Salvatore Sciacchitano, said that, barring a decision by his agency to deny permission, Eurofly could begin operating from Linate's general aviation terminal on a flight-by-flight basis. He asked the USG to provide any documentary evidence it had, including flight plans, that would boost the case that Eurofly intends to offer the service on a scheduled basis. Sciacchitano said ENAC will reevaluate its position based on USG objections. Econoff informed ENAC May 4 of the decision to cancel the TSA assessment of Linate Airport and underscored that without a favorable TSA assessment of Linate/Eurofly security practices, Eurofly could not depart Linate for the United States. End summary.

[1](#)2. (U) Ecmin and Econoff delivered ref A points May 3 to Achille Vinci Giacchi, Diplomatic Advisor to Minister of Transportation Pietro Lunardi, and Salvatore Sciacchitano, Vice-Director General of Italy's aviation agency, ENAC.

GOI Non-Decision Would Allow Flights to Start.  
-----

[1](#)3. (U) Sciacchitano said ENAC, which had earlier in the week called a meeting with Eurofly and Milano Manhattan Club (MiMa) representatives, was still gathering information on the proposed flights. He said neither Eurofly nor MiMa had made any formal request for authorization and that ENAC was still evaluating the situation.

[1](#)4. (U) Econoff pressed Sciacchitano to explain what would happen if ENAC simply did not make a decision prior to the proposed May 8 inaugural flight. Sciacchitano admitted that, should ENAC take no action, Eurofly/MiMa could commence operations from Linate's general aviation terminal on a flight-by-flight basis. Sciacchitano said he understood MiMa/Eurofly had filed a flight plan in Italy for May 8 and May 17. Econoff urged ENAC to take positive action to deny permission based upon, if nothing else, the fact that MiMa/Eurofly is publicly advertising this service on its

website, which violates Italian regulations governing general aviation flights.

ENAC Asks for Evidence of Scheduled Service.

-----

15. (SBU) Sciacchitano hit upon Ref A point that Eurofly has presented this service to the USG as a scheduled charter. He said Eurofly has explicitly told the GOI that the service will not be scheduled. ENAC, he said, would appreciate copies of any documents, including flight plans filed by Eurofly in the United States, that show Eurofly's intention to offer the Milan-New York flights on a scheduled basis. He also asked for an official copy of Ref A points on Embassy letterhead. (Note: We provided this to ENAC May 4. End note.) He said ENAC would take USG objections to the flights into consideration, but Sciacchitano fell short of saying that ENAC would move to stop the May 8 flight.

16. (SBU) Sciacchitano said he understood USG objections, but he stressed that the Eurofly/MiMa proposal was an entirely new and ambiguous situation and that the GOI did not have a cut-and-dried basis to stop the flights.

17. (U) On May 4, Econoff notified Emilia Chiavarelli, Director of Economic Regulations at ENAC, of the USG's decision to cancel the TSA assessment of Linate. Chiavarelli made no response other than to thank Econoff for informing them of the decision.

Comment

-----

18. (SBU) Eurofly has evidently used its connections to get this far with a scheme that clearly violates Italy's own ban

ROME 00001329 002 OF 002

on trans-Atlantic service to and from Linate Airport. ENAC, we believe, has been under intense pressure to approve, or at least acquiesce to, the flights. Privately, some Embassy contacts have said that, should ENAC deny permission, Eurofly will initiate court proceedings against the GOI to recoup its losses, including money spent on upgrades to Linate's general aviation terminal.

19. (SBU) We think the decision to cancel the TSA security assessment of Linate and Eurofly/MiMa flight adequately conveys the USG intent to stop this Linate trans-Atlantic service. However, we think that Eurofly/MiMa will not be deterred: they will continue to pressure the outgoing government, or the incoming government, to launch flights. In the longer term, we would not be surprised, if the government lifted its own prohibitions against Linate-based trans-Atlantic flights, which could mean reciprocity for U.S. carriers, either through direct flights or codesharing. End comment.

SPOGLI